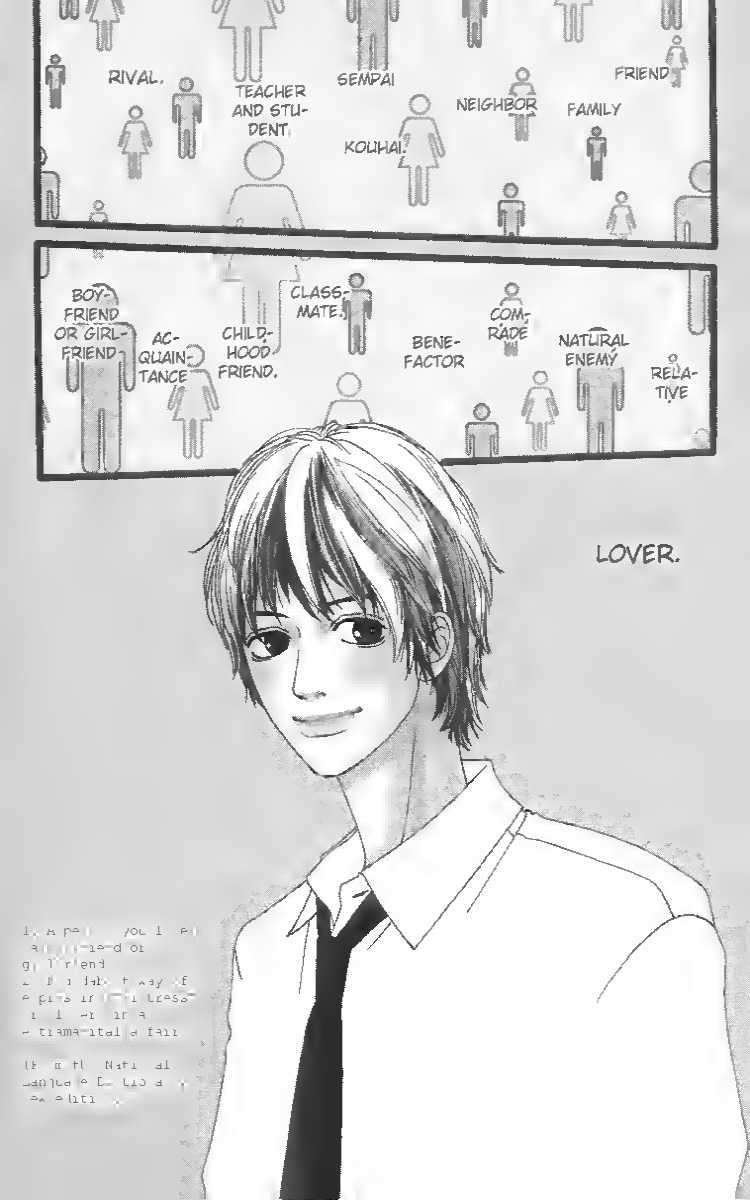

RIVAL.
TEACHER AND STUDENT.
SEMPAI
KOUHAI.
NEIGHBOR
FAMILY
FRIEND
BOY-FRIEND OR GIRL-FRIEND
AC-QUAIN-TANCE
CHILD-HOOD FRIEND.
CLASS-MATE.
BENE-FACTOR
COM-RADE
NATURAL ENEMY
RELA-TIVE
LOVER.

微糖(びとう)
ロリポップ。
#0002

I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MOVE.
AND THERE WAS JUST SO MUCH STUFF CHURNING IN MY HEAD
IT WAS THE FIRST NIGHT I WAS LIVING APART FROM MY PARENTS

IT FEELS STRANGE TO WAKE UP ALL ALONE
SO BRIGHT...
IT'S MORNING ALREADY?
I NEED TO GET SOME CURTAINS
AROUND SEVEN IN THE MORNING, ASAGI-MAMA CAME OVER TO BRING MY BREAKFAST AND A BENTO.
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL AND PROPER EVEN IN THE MORNING, COMING OFF AS SOMEWHAT SEAMLESS.
GOOD MORNING, MADOKA-SAN

WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE, I GOT A CALL FROM MY GRANDMA IN SHIZUOKA
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT DOING IT WILLINGLY...
SHE WENT AND MADE ME LUNCH...
I guess I should be grateful
?
THOSE BONEHEADS SAID THEY'D BE STUDYING HARD EVERY SECOND
WHAT? MAMA AND PAPA HAVEN'T GOT THERE YET?!
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE THAT I'M TALKING TO MY GRANDMA ON THE PHONE, IT FEELS TOTALLY NATURAL...
Well, they're probably just fooling around somewhere
You go on to school without a worry, you hear? I'll call back again.
TOMO-CHAN, DID YOU REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR HANDKERCHIEF?

YOU HAVE PIANO LESSONS TODAY, SO REMEMBER TO COME HOME EARLY
WATCH OUT FOR CARS
She comes out to send him off to school every morning?
I KNEW HE WAS A SPOILED BRAT
FWIP
Hmph
HOW RUDE!
OH, MY! MADOKA-SAN.

I BROUGHT YOU THE PLATES FROM BREAK-FAST.
THANK YOU SO MUCH
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BRING THEM ALL THE WAY OVER HERE YOU CAN JUST LEAVE THEM OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR LIKE YOU DO AFTER DINNER.
AS FOR YOUR LUNCHBOX PLEASE WASH THEM AS SOON AS YOU RE FINISHED EATING, AND LEAVE IT ALONG WITH YOUR DINNER PLATES
MAKING SURE I DON'T GO NEAR THE MAIN HOUSE HUH?
DOES SHE THINK I'LL BE A BAD INFLU-ENCE ON HER SON JUST BECAUSE I'M A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?
WELL, WE ALREADY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER SO TAKE THAT!
THAT GUY'S HOUSE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
HE'S THE GRANDSON OF THAT LADY THAT TEACHES THE ZITHER.

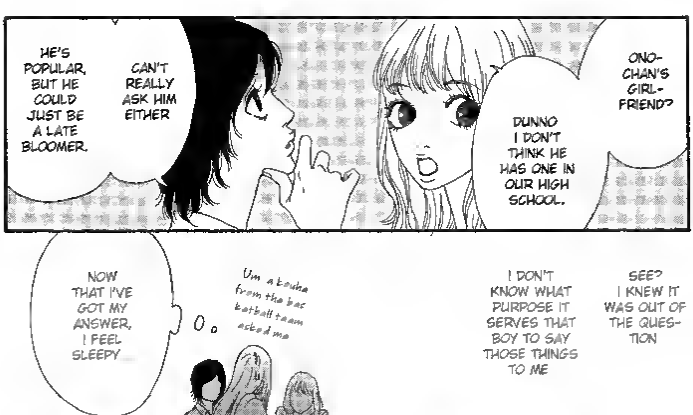
HE COMES OVER ONCE IN A WHILE,
SINCE HE'S THAT OLD HAG'S LOVER
WHAT?
THEY PROBABLY HOOKED UP THEN
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM ABOUT IT?
THE LADY WHO TEACHES THE ZITHER'S A FRIEND OF MY LATE GRAND-MOTHER, YOU KNOW
SHE'S ANCIENT AND LIVES ALONE WITH HER GRANDSON, SO THE OLD HAG GOES AND HELPS TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
ANYWAY, YOU
HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE?!
DO YOU HAVE ACTUAL PROOF?! DID YOU CATCH THEM TOGET-HER?!

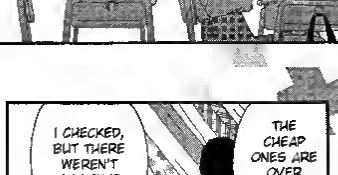
WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AH!
WHAT, YOU
AHHH?! SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, HUH?!
HUH?
MAN, WHAT THE HELL? YOU PISS ME OFF.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE COOL FOR A SECOND, BUT NOT ANYMORE.
HURRY UP AND MOVE YOUR ASS OUTTA THIS ROOM, YOU NUMBSKULL!

WHY'D HE GET PISSED OFF ALL OF A SUDDEN? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND KIDS
IF HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH,
THEN ONO LIVES SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
DUNNO IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT.
MORNING, MADOKA!
HOW WAS THE FIRST DAY OF THE BIG MOVE?

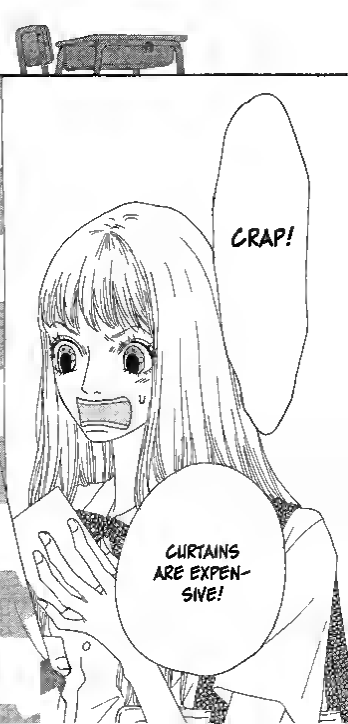
THEY TREAT ME LIKE AN UNINVITED GUEST
BUT I'LL GET BY SOME-HOW...
MORNING, ONO-CHAN!
Troublez Troublez
Woo hoo
WHAT, WHAT? GIVE US THE JUICY DETAILS!
HEY
TANAKA, YOU GOT NEW HEAD-PHONES?
Which brand?
THE SENNHEISER HD25!! IT OOZES KILLER AUDIO, MAN.
Wanna try?
MORNING, ONO-CHAN BY THE WAY...

IT CAN'T BE TRUE.
LOVER.
LOVER.
LOVER.
Guy's back already!
A FRIENDLY GUY LIKE THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE HAVING AN ADULTEROUS AFFAIR.
"THOSE WORDS HAD SO MUCH IMPACT THAT IT KEPT REPEATING OVER AND OVER AGAIN INSIDE MY HEAD."
"THE OLD HAG'S LOVER."


ONO-CHAN'S GIRL-FRIEND?
DUNNO I DON'T THINK HE WAS ONE IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL.
HE'S POPULAR, BUT HE COULD JUST BE A LATE BLOOMER.
CAN'T REALLY ASK HIM EITHER
SEE? I KNEW IT WAS OUT OF THE QUES-TION
I DON'T KNOW WHAT PURPOSE IT SERVES THAT BOY TO SAY THOSE THINGS TO ME
Um a Louka from the bas ketball team asked me
O。
NOW THAT I'VE GOT MY ANSWER, I FEEL SLEEPY


THE CHEAP ONES ARE OVER HERE
I CHECKED, BUT THERE WEREN'T ANY CUTE ONES

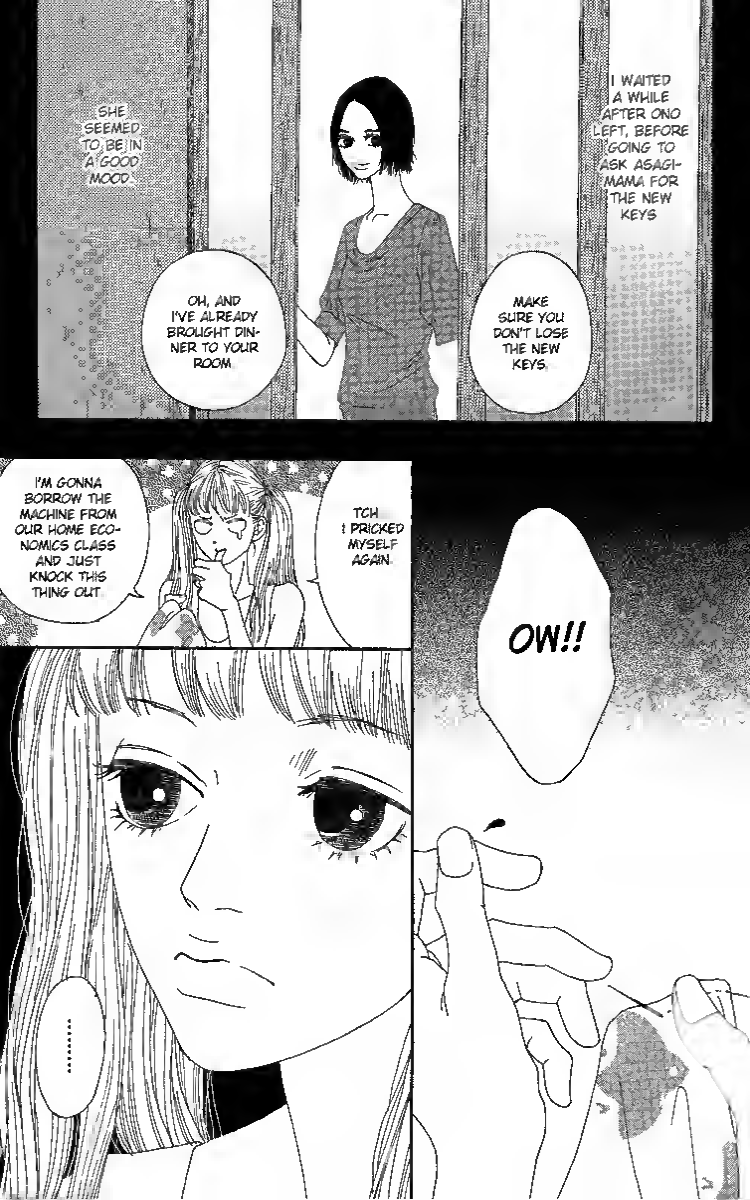
BUY SOME FABRIC AND SEW IT TO-GETHER YOUR-SELF
THAT SOUNDS HARD
THE SIMPLEST WAY IS TO STITCH THE FABRIC INTO A RECTANGLE AND LEAVE HOLES FOR THE EYELETS SO YOU CAN HANG IT
My older sister did that
HUH? WHAT'S AN EYE-LET?

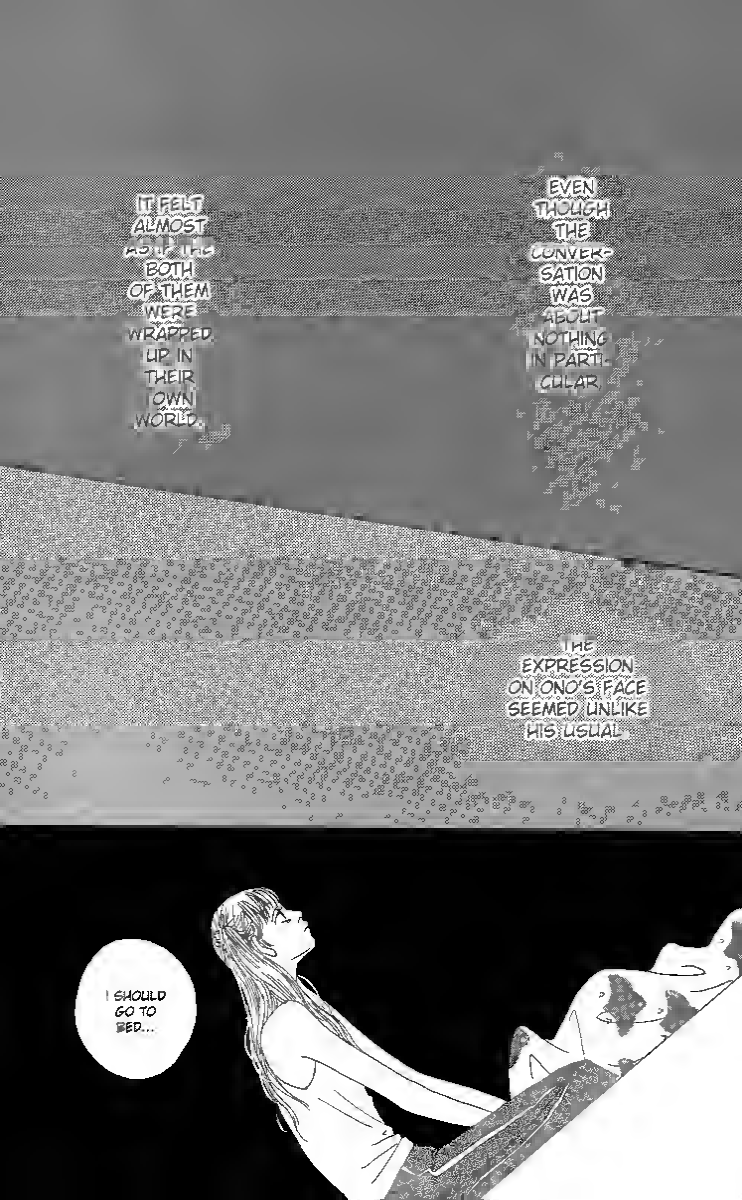

CRAP!
CURTAINS ARE EXPEN-SIVE!

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU LET US SLEEP OVER SOMETIME MADOKA?
OH, I WANNA GO!
BUT I WONDER IF ASAGI-MAMA WILL GET MAD AT US
COME OVER, COME OVER, IT'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS WE KEEP IT DOWN...
Mayko
MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY LIVING ALONE NOW THAT I HAVE THE CHANCE.
OKAY! I'VE FOUND SOME CUTE LINEN.
SO IT'S TIME TO GET DOWN TO BUSI-NESS.
I don't have a sewing machine, so I gonna be by hand.
CLACK
HUH?
OH, YEAH, SHE SAID SHE'D CHANGE THE LOCK.
BACK TO THE MAIN HOUSE...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING BECAUSE I WANT TO, OKAY?
.....
...
HM? DID SOME-ONE COME OVER?

IS THAT ONO?!
AND ASAGI-MAMA?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO RETURN THE BOOK I FORGOT
I'VE ALREADY FINISHED READING ANYWAY.

I HAD SOME FREE TIME... AND HOW IS TOMOYO-KUN DOING?
HE TAKES PIANO LESSONS NOW
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
HM...
I'LL HAVE TO PASS
SAY HELLO TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER FOR ME
GOOD NIGHT


I WAITED A WHILE AFTER ONO LEFT, BEFORE GOING TO ASK ASAGI-MAMA FOR THE NEW KEYS
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LOSE THE NEW KEYS.
SHE SEEMED TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD.
OH, AND I'VE ALREADY BROUGHT DIN-NER TO YOUR ROOM.
OW!!
TCH ! PRICKED MYSELF AGAIN.
I'M GONNA BORROW THE MACHINE FROM OUR HOME ECO-NOMICS CLASS AND JUST KNOCK THIS THING OUT.
.....


IT FELT ALMOST AS IF THE BOTH OF THEM WERE WRAPPED UP IN THEIR OWN WORLD.
EVEN THOUGH THE CONVERSATION WAS ABOUT NOTHING IN PARTICULAR
THE EXPRESSION ON ONO'S FACE SEEMED UNLIKE HIS USUAL
I SHOULD GO TO BED...

I NEED TO EMPTY OUT MY BRAIN
krrric...
Krik...
Krik...
Krik...
BE SOMEONE'S FOOTSTEPS?
COULD THE FAINT SOUND COMING FROM THE OTHER ROOM...
...WHAT WAS THAT?
krik
krik
krik

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
YOUR EYES ARE ALL PUFFY!!
WEEEELL, HAHAHA, THE THING IS...
YOU HEARD FOOTSTEPS IN AN EMPTY ROOM?!
LET ME GUESS, YOU WERE UP LATE MAKING CURTAINS?!

Talk No. 3

I love hats!! Even if my hair is messy, I can still go out without a worry!! I have a space at the entrance for button-up caps.

LOVE♡

I can't choose gum for long periods of time because it irritates my jaw. That makes me feel sad somehow.

Tabe consuad

KYAHH!!! I'LL BE HAUNTED BY A GHOST!!
YOU JERK!!
EWWW, GROSS! I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO YOUR HOUSE. OVER MY DEAD BODY!
IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGI-NATION.
IT'S AN OLD HOUSE SO THE WOOD CREAKS
IT'LL PROBABLY JUST MY IMAGI-NATION

THAT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND...
PERVERTS AND BURGLARS PROWL AROUND AT NIGHT. SO YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL
DO YOU FASTEN YOUR LOCKS, MADOKA?
BESIDES, PEOPLE ARE SCARIER THAN GHOSTS.

CAN WE TALK?
GOTOU-SAN.
FSHH
IT WAS ONLY MY IMAGINATION
NO, IT WASN'T
YEAH, IT DEFINITELY WAS
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE
YOU NO-TICED?!
YOU WERE AT THE ASAGI'S HOUSE YES-TERDAY, WEREN'T YOU?

I WAS ABOUT TO CALL FOR YOU,
BUT IT WAS DARK AND I WASN'T SURE IF I HAD GOT THE RIGHT PERSON.
I HEARD FROM ASAGI-SAN THAT THEY TOOK IN SOME-ONE FROM THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL,
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF STUDENTS IN OUR SCHOOL, SO I FIGURED IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME-ONE TOTALLY DIFFERENT
ASAGI-SAN COMES OVER TO HELP OUT AT MY PLACE
SO IT WAS YOU, GOTOU-SAN
I KNOW HER SON TOLD ME
TOMOYO-KUN?
OH, SO YOU'VE ALREADY MET?
I CAME UP IN THE CONVERSA-TION?
WHAT DID HE SAY?

ONO'S FACE LAST NIGHT IS
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I'M SEEING AT SCHOOL TODAY
IF I TELL HIM THIS,
WILL HE SHOW ME ANOTHER ONE?
HE SAID YOU'RE
HIS MOTHER'S LOVER
.....
HUH?
WHAT?
YOU'RE KIDDING?!

DID TOMOYO-KUN REALLY SAY THAT?!
Y-YEAH
ME AND ASAGI-SAN?!
OH, MAYBE...
HE HATES ME, OR SOME-THING
WHAT'S HE ON ABOUT?
WHERE'D THAT RUMOR COME FROM NOW?
I DON'T KNOW HIM ALL THAT WELL.
DUNNO
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A JOKE,
IT'LL MAKE HIS MOM WEEP TO HEAR HER SON SAY THAT

HFFFF... THIS'S ALL MY FAULT...
I NEVER INTENDED TO SHOW MY FEELINGS...
HUH?
ASAGI-SAN IS...
A VERY SPECIAL.. PERSON TO ME...

DOES THAT MEAN YOU LOVE HER?
.....
SO THAT WAS
OH, I SEE.
THE LOVELORN LOOK FOR A WOMAN HE LOVES,
BUT WHO REMAINS UNREACHABLE.
OF COURSE IT'S COMPLETELY ONE-SIDED ON MY PART.
I DON'T PLAN ON CONFESSING MY FEELINGS TO HER
SO YOU GO FOR THE LOOKS, ONO

THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
SHE'S THE KIND OF WOMAN THAT STICKS TO HER GUNS,
SO I'M JUST AFRAID SHE'LL END UP SNAPPING SOONER OR LATER BECAUSE OF IT...
BUT YOU DO FIND HER ATTRACTIVE
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
IT'S OKAY.
TOMOYO PROBABLY JUST HAS A MOTHER-COMPLEX.
DON'T SWEAT IT
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S YOUR HOUSE AT, ONO?
I COULDN'T FIND A ZITHER CLASSROOM ANYWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

OH, WE DIDN'T PUT UP ANY SIGNS,
AND THE NAME ON GRANDMA'S NAME PLATE DOESN'T SAY "ONO" EITHER
YOU SEE, I'M ORIGINALLY FROM KANAGAWA
NOW THAT SHE'S A LOT OLDER, MY DAD'S BEEN TRYING TO GET HER TO MOVE IN WITH US
BUT SHE SAYS HER HOME IS HERE, AND ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO BUDGE
I LIKE HER,
AND I'M A COUNTRY BUMPKIN WHO'S IN LOVE WITH TOKYO,
SO I TOOK THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM AND CAME TO LIVE HERE WITH HER.
YOUR GRANDMA MUST BE REALLY HAPPY
HUH?
NO, SHE'S ALWAYS TELLING ME SHE WON'T BE LOOKING AFTER ME
IT'S STILL NICE TO HAVE A GRANDMA LIKE THAT.
UNTIL NOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD WITH PEOPLE LIKE ONO.
I SPOKE WITH MY GRANDMA FOR THE FIRST TIME THE OTHER DAY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP TO-
THAT WAS OUR FIRST NORMAL CONVERSATION TOGETHER.

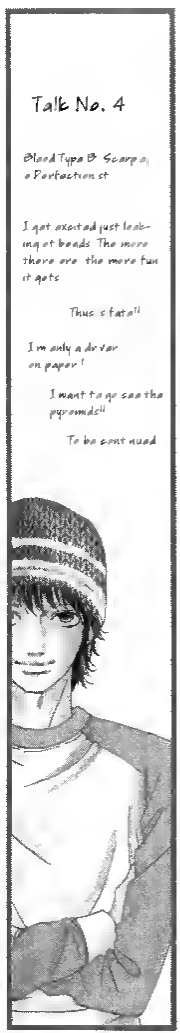
EVEN THEN, HE WOULD STILL ALWAYS GREET ME IN THE MORNING
I GET SO NERVOUS AROUND HIM THAT I CAN'T EVER FIND THE COURAGE TO SAY HELLO
IT WAS JUST UNBEARABLE HAVING TO ADMIT THAT I LIKED A GUY THAT EVERYONE ELSE LIKED TOO
EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT I COULDN'T STAND HIM, I DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ONO
THAT'S RIGHT
ZZ..
SLEEP WING OVER UNREQUITED LOVE
MAN... I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP TONIGHT EITHER
creak
creak
creak

THAT'S RIGHT
IT WAS JUST UNBEARABLE HAVING TO ADMIT THAT I LIKED A GUY THAT EVERYONE ELSE LIKED TOO
EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT I COULDN'T STAND HIM, I DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ONO
EVEN THEN, HE WOULD STILL ALWAYS GREET ME IN THE MORNING
I GET SO NERVOUS AROUND HIM THAT I CAN'T EVER FIND THE COURAGE TO SAY HELLO
ZZ..
SLEEP WING OVER UNREQUITED LOVE
MAN... I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP TONIGHT EITHER
creak
creak
creak

FOOT-STEPS, AGAIN...
CREAK...
CREAK...
I KNEW IT WASN'T MY IMAGI-NATION...
FWUP
TH-THE TOMOYO KID CAN'T GET INSIDE BECAUSE WE CHANGED THE LOCK
AND I'D NOTICE SOMEONE COMING THROUGH THE DOOR
MADE SURE TO FASTEN ALL THE LOCKS INCLUDING THE ONE IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR
IT MUST BE A ROBBER OR A... GHOST?!
IT'S NOT THE WOOD CREAKING
.....
GULP
GRAB
WHO'S THERE?!
GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE!!
RATTLE

SILENCE...
DON'T MAKE ME PUNCH A HEART-SHAPED HOLE IN YOUR...
Shiver..
Thud
I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE!!
I'M GONNA GO LIVE WITH MAMA AND PAPA IN SHIZUOKA!!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE
I..

HNGH
I'M SCARED.
SOMEONE, PLEASE COME...
And then I'll be here to... marry u!
OH, YEAH! I CAN JUST SLEEP OVER AT THE ASAGI'S HOUSE.
WOAH! WAIT, WAIT!
IT'S ME, IT'S ME.
SORRY IF I SCARED YOU.


Talk No. 4
Blood Type B Scorpio
a Perfectionist
I got excited just looking at beads. The more there are the more fun it gets
Thus sitatal!!
I'm only a driver on paper!
I want to go see the pyramids!!
To be continued

HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET INSIDE?!

HOW?

I CAME THROUGH THE WINDOW IN THIS ROOM.

BUT I MADE SURE TO LOCK IT!!

IT'S LOOSE

YOU JUST TWIST IT A LITTLE AND IT OPENS

GLARE

I CAN'T HELP IT, OKAY?

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE I CAN BE MYSELF.

IT'S MY ONLY SANCTUARY

BEHIND GRAMPS' LIBRARY IS...
WHAT?!
BUT THEN I GOT FED UP WHEN YOU FELL FOR THAT STUPID STORY.
YOU'RE GONNA BE LIVING HERE FROM NOW ON, AND YOU DIDN'T SEEM TOTALLY CLUELESS, SO I CAME TO TALK THINGS OUT BETWEEN YOU AND ME
MY MANGA AND DVD COLLEC-TION

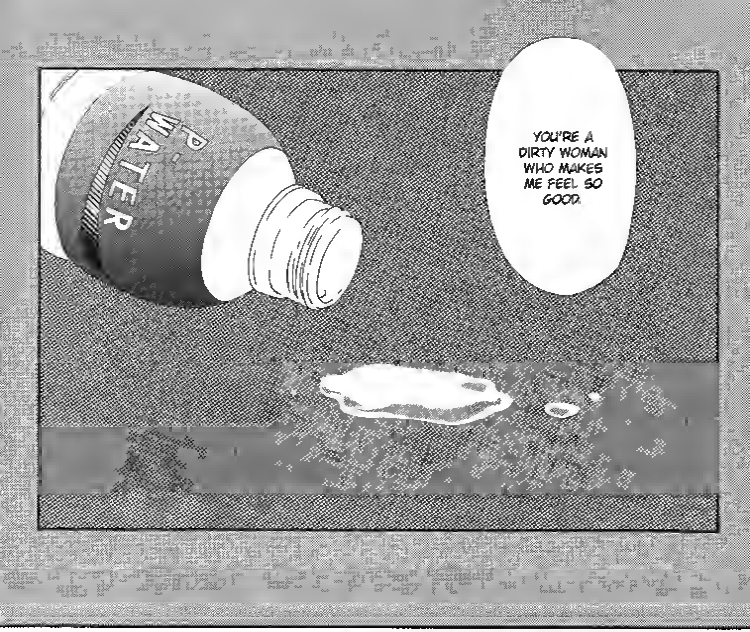
WOW...
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS STUFF!
I'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO STOW THESE AWAY IN SECRET SINCE I WAS A KID.
THE OLD HAG HATES COMICS, SO SHE TOSSES THEM OUT WHENEVER SHE FINDS THEM.
BUT I'M GONNA BE A MANGA ARTIST IN THE FUTURE
I HIDE THE ART SUPPLIES OVER THERE.
IS THE FACT THAT THIS IS MY ROOM GETTING THROUGH TO YOUR THICK SKULL YET?
Hmph
SLIDE
HEY, HEY, HEY!
THUD
ARE YOU O...
THE THING ABOUT YOUR GRANDPA'S GHOST
TELL ME THE TRUTH...

IT'S JUST THAT THE OLD HAG'S ALWAYS MAKING EYES AT HIM WHENEVER THEY'RE TALKING, AND I FOUND IT CREEPY, THAT'S ALL
She can't be his mistress
.....
...IND ABOUT YOUR MOM BEING ONO'S MISTRESS...
WHAT?! YOU FELL FOR THAT TOO?
I
I LIED.
I JUST WANTED TO SCARE YOU A LITTLE.
HEY!
DON'T FALL SLEEP HERE!

CLUTCH
I KEPT PACE INTO THE MOVE.
I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO CATCH A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP.

SO...
DID SHE FALL FOR YOUR ACT?
MAYBE.
WELL, I KNEW I WAS OVERDOING IT, BUT I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
I FIGURED SHE'D BE MORE OBSERVANT.
AND SUSPECTED SHE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY WHEN SHE SAW US TOGETHER.
BUT SHE'S JUST A NORMAL GIRL AFTER ALL.

OF COURSE.
WELL, IT'S NOT A TOTAL LIE
AM I SPECIAL TO YOU?
TELL ME MORE.
YOU'RE PRETTY. EXTREMELY PRETTY.
YOUR EYES, YOUR NOSE, YOUR LIPS
YOUR HANDS, YOUR BREASTS, YOUR LEGS
YOUR VOICE. AND THE WAY YOU SMELL.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.



... SOMETHING LIKE THAT

(THE TRUTH IS IT WAS A MUCH MORE IDIOTIC MESSAGE THAN THAT.)

WE HEARD NEWS OF AN "ANYONE CAN PASS WITH AT LEAST A 70" ULTIMATE TEXTBOOK FROM A CHARISMATIC RONINSEI AND VISITED SEVERAL HUNDRED SHOPS IN SEARCH OF IT, ONLY TO FIND THAT THEY HAD ALL BEEN SOLD OUT. THE TIME HAS NOT YET COME FOR US TO ATTAIN ENLIGHTENMENT. WHEN IT DOES COME, IT'LL NATURALLY FALL INTO OUR HANDS. WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND, WE WENT BACK HOME.

Are those two really our pals, about studying and stuff?

BY THE WAY, MY PARENTS FINALLY SHOWED UP A WEEK LATER AT GRANDMA'S HOUSE IN SHIZUOKA.

THEIR LAME EXCUSE WAS